



the RARA RAG

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JUNE, 2005

NO. 10

Churchville Village Board announces a planned BPL system

By Rick Booth, K2SA
Churchville Radio Club

On April 16th the Churchville Village Board announced, via the Suburban News and then followed up with a press release on its own website, that they were going to be one of the first communities in New York State to provide Broadband Internet and telephone service via the Village owned power lines. The Village will receive a percentage of revenue from the BPL internet provider. The Churchville Village Board has claimed that the quality of life will be enhanced by this service. A letter to the editor was sent by myself to the Suburban News. It discussed the technical dark side of this technology in that significant radio interference could be expected in the 2.0 to 80 MHz. spectrum.

This interference problem is very real for BPL systems using the unshielded High Voltage power lines as the communications data link. Notching has not proven to be effective in other areas. FCC part 15 limits for an unlicensed service are exceeded. Penn Yan, NY launched a BPL system and then withdrew from it in favor of a WiFi system once they understood the magnitude of the interference issues. Skaneateles, NY turned BPL down because of the interference issues. Briarcliff Manor, NY has an unresolved interference mess going.

(BPL continued on page-3)

RARA - RRRA Joint Picnic, Sat June 18

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

This year the annual Spring picnic will be a joint effort by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association. It will be held at the "Old Meadow Shelter" in Ellison Park. Activities will get started at 11:00AM with food and soda being served throughout the day. As usual RARA will be furnishing the hot dogs, rolls and soda pop. We would ask that you bring some kind of a dish to share with your fellow hams and friends. Things like beans, salads, deserts, or munchies would be appreciated.

Max Kessler, N2MXD from RRRA promises to provide some fun for the hams in the way of a hidden transmitter hunt. He says the only thing you will need is your hand held radio. Come on out and try the fun.

The annual picnic is always a family fun time for all, including the kids. We hope to see you there. Additional details, as they become available will be posted on the RARA Web Site at www.rochesterham.org and talk-in on the picnic day will be on the RRRA Repeater, 146.88mhz.

RaRa / RRRA Picnic

June 18 2005

11:00 A.M.

Old Meadow Shelter

Ellison Park

**Fun and Games for
The Family**

SILENT KEYS

Edward F. Whittaker, WA2DJC

December 14, 2004

Samuel L. Guadagnino, W2RWD

April 30, 2005

David S. Bodner, K2ZFM

May 29, 2005

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Dick Goslee, KG2I

President, RARA

When I first started this column 20 years ago, as President, I never dreamed I would be writing it again. Times sure have changed over the years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers Directors and Committee Heads for their efforts during the past year. Without those members volunteering their time and efforts each year, RARA wouldn't be the organization it is today.

The Rochester Hamfest 2005 is now behind us and plans are already being made for 2006. Some of the vendors in the Dome Arena have already paid for their spots for next year. I would like to thank our Hamfest Chairman Harold Smith, K2HC and his entire staff as well as all the people who worked on getting the show ready and seeing that it went off without problems. Without these individuals working their tails off the show could not have taken place. These people take time off from their regular jobs each year to set up the entire Fairgrounds for the show, and then they work all weekend to see that everyone has an enjoyable time. On behalf of RARA, THANK YOU.

Our final event for the year will be the "Spring Picnic" which will be held at Ellison Park on June 18, 2005. This year it will be a joint picnic with RARA and RRRR participating. Look for all the details in an article on page 1 of this issue of the RAG.

We will start our regular meetings again in September. Because the 1st Friday of the month falls on Labor Day weekend we will instead meet on the 2nd Friday. Since there are 5 Fridays in September this should not present any problems for any of the other clubs. The big change that will occur at the regular meetings in the fall will be the business portion of the meeting. I know you don't want to sit and listen to a business meeting for a long time so we are going to change that. The meeting should be no more than 20 minutes in length and then we can get into the entertainment portion of the evening. With this arrangement we should be able to finish up at a reasonable hour each night.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings, starting in the Fall.

**September Rag Deadline
August 12, 2005**

The FCC was under significant pressure from the Executive Branch (jobs and economy stimulation) to give a limited approval for BPL to precede under FCC part 15 emission levels. Several pages of their December 8, 2004 perspective by FCC Deputy Chief Bruce Franca was devoted to the anticipated interference issues. On the 21st of April, HR-230 was introduced in the US House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. It directs the FCC to take significant actions with respect to BPL as a result of interference to Public Service low band VHF radio systems.

So if you don't live in the Village of Churchville, NY, why should this be of a concern to you? Each of the Village owned electric systems in New York State is being "targeted" by the BPL internet providers. If you live in or within a couple of miles of Churchville, Spencerport, Bergen, Fairport, Avon or another village owned electric system, this could very well become your issue in the near future.

Amateurs in the Rochester area need to become better informed on BPL. The ARRL web site has a wealth of information. Take time to understand the issues associated with this technology and make contact with your local Village officials to determine their intentions. If you wish to provide comments to the Churchville Village Board, their web site address is:

<http://www.churchville.net/contact.asp>

If you have a point of view you should take the time to compose some thoughts and pass them on to news editors or others. Contact your Congressional representatives and ask them to support HR-230.

The Churchville Village entered into an agreement without understanding the consequences of high speed data communications over unshielded HV power lines. You can make a difference by providing factual information on BPL technology.

For additional information or to help fight this BPL installation contact:

Churchville Radio Club
P.O. Box 224

Churchville, N.Y. 14428

Or email to:

churchvillerc@rochester.rr.com

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

Volunteers Needed for Multiple Sclerosis Benefit

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Coordinator

The Upstate New York Multiple Sclerosis Society (bye the way, this is the group that was so impressed last year they did not know how they managed without us.) is holding its Finger Lakes Bike Tour raising funds to end the devastating effects of MS. This two day (August 20 & 21) bicycling event will feature a short and a long course each day. The long course will be there for those that desire a challenging ride and the short course will provide a family friendly alternative.

This year the Tour it will start and end in nearby Canandaigua at Finger Lakes Community College. Some of you may also know the area as Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center or FLPAC. And, Yes there will be entertainment in the afternoon for cyclists and volunteers as well as plenty of good food.

We will need about eighteen hams each day to cover Rest Stops, ride along on the 'Drop Out' vehicle disguised as a school bus, and work as SAG vehicles on either of the routes. Of course, with shorter routes than last year and new scenery we could be done earlier.

If you who have already signed up for either or both days, thank you. To those of you who are hesitating, please feel free to talk with me about this event and any concerns you may have about fitting it into your busy schedule. There are assignments to fit a variety of schedules. I'd be happy to work with you just to answer your questions. No obligations, just talk. Of course, I'd like to make it possible for you to participate even for just a short time as some have already done.

Contact Keith at n2bel@frontiernet.net

Volunteers Needed for Boys & Girls Club Benefit

by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Coordinator

The Boys & Girls Club is holding its second annual benefit, the Musselman Triathlon this July 17th and needs our help. Last year there were five hundred participants from all over the US and five countries. This year registrations are already over the three hundred mark with nearly three months to go.

(Volunteers continued on page 6)





Volunteers (continued from Page-3)

The Musselman, named humorously for the Zebra Mussel that inhabits many of our fresh water lakes, consists of a swim, bike and run. There is a 'long' course for adults and a 'short' course so Boys & Girls can participate too.

We are needed primarily on the Run and Bike courses. Typical duties will be Safety and Gear Vehicles, fixed stations at intersections with police agencies and fixed stations at Aid Stations on difficult portions of the course where it is possible some folks may need medical aide called in. Over thirty locations are on their wish list of radio operators keeping safety at the forefront of this event.

Since this event has been done once (last year), we can tell you very specific times when you will be needed on the course. This will keep the amount time you are just waiting to a minimum.

If you who have already signed up, thank you. To those of you who are hesitating, please feel free to talk with me about any of your concerns about what you might be doing or what you can fit it into your busy schedule. There are assignments to fit a variety of schedules. I'd be happy to work with you just to answer your questions. No obligations, just talk. Of course, I'd like to make it possible for you to participate even for just a short time as some have already done.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
Media Coordinator

India launched its first satellite for amateur radio operators. The Hamsa weighed in at 94 lbs, and will expand bandwidth to help amateur radio operators around the world. The satellite was launched on a locally-made rocket from Sriharikota island in southern Andhra Pradesh state. The event was attended by India President Dr. Avul Kalam, who is a scientist himself, and once was involved with India's satellite program. *BBC World News*

Which is a faster form of communication: cell phone text messaging or Morse code? On May 13, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* featured a message sending/receiving contest between these two modes of communication. A couple of young techies sent and received a text message. Simultaneously, a Morse team did the same. The Morse code team consisted of Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. Both hams are known for their frequent participation in contests and DXpeditions. (By the way, Joe Drago, the props manager for the Tonight Show is KF6OCP.) The

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Morse message was played aloud as the hams got down to business. So who won the contest, the techies or the hams? Chip and Ken – dressed as 1890's telegraphers, visors and all – won hands down, so to speak. And what was the message the contestants had to communicate? "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance." According to my watch, the hams completed the message in less than 15 seconds. The message, not including spaces, has 39 characters – or about 8 words. Thus, they worked at roughly a 30 wpm speed. An audience contestant won a prize for correctly predicting Morse code would be faster. Isn't it interesting how a method of messaging from the 19th Century still outpaces a common modern approach to sending text? Some creations are enduring and monumental. *W2ZEY - the roving reporter.*

Rep Michael Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of the radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL) operations. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has urged ARRL members to contact their US representatives to support the resolution when it reaches the floor of the House. If you're not sure who represents your congressional district, visit the United States House of Representatives www.house.gov/ web site. The resolution, H Res. 230, is located at www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf and says the Commission should comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" its new BPL rules http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-245A1.doc. Many public safety agencies and support services, including emergency medical services, fire, and law enforcement, utilize radios which can be affected, the resolution points out. Thirteen states--California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming--use radios threatened by BPL for their state police operations, and they are the primary public safety radios in nine states. (W2ZEY's note – this action is timely now that Commissioner Powell has stepped down.) *ARRL PR Reflector*

Editors Note

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Editor, RaRa RAG

Because of time and space constraints this month the photographs and articles about the award winners at the 2005 Rochester Hamfest Banquet will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

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